



Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Spring Newsletter

April 2012



www.ogafcap.co.uk

In this issue read about ...



... a family day out

... a Royal celebration



... a countryside adventure



... and lucky residents

... as well as community news and forthcoming OGAFCAs social events.

From the Chairman

Spring is sprung, the grass is ris - as someone once said - and we have just begun our third year as a Community Association.

The eight Work Groups made up of volunteers are working on a whole range of issues, trying to improve our surroundings and daily lives. Their reports of progress are contained in other articles in this newsletter. But I would like to highlight a few activities and successes here:

- the recent extension of the footway on the Fifield Road
- a campaign to reduce the speed limit on Forest Green Road
- the upgrade of a number of stiles and kissing gates on our footpaths
- an open meeting organised by our Business Work Group on Monday 30 April in the Fifield Inn at 7:00 pm
- a Street Party planned to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4 June

As well as the AGM in September, we hold several All Volunteer and Members meetings each year and this is where anyone can come along and hear about what we are doing and provide input. The last one was on Thursday 23 February and the next one is scheduled for Thursday 17 May in Braywood Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will take place this year on Thursday 20 September at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall.

The important Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan initiative continues to make progress - read more in the update from Chris Graham, the Steering Group Chairman on page 20. We continue to support this work and sponsored a "Drop In Day" on 4 February in Braywood Memorial Hall to help promote local understanding and engagement. The closing date for completing the Bray and RBWM Surveys was 16 March, but further consultation is coming and we will keep you posted.

Ah yes – another plug for membership of the Association. The majority of our members signed up for two years when we launched the Association in the spring of 2010. These were up for renewal on 31 March. Subscriptions are an important source of revenue for the

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Association and remain very good value at £3 for a year and £5 for two years. If you need a form, please contact me, or download one from our website and of course, we more than welcome new members!

Finally, if you feel you wish to contribute more to the community, please contact any of the Work Group Spokespersons, or me, at any time. All offers will be gratefully accepted!

Grenville Annetts
01628 784441

The new non-emergency police telephone number is now

101

Dates for your diary

OGAFCA Business and Community Partnership Meeting - 30 April
OGAFCA All Members and Volunteers Meeting - Thursday - 17 May
Holyport Fair - Saturday 2 June
OGAFCA Jubilee Street Party - Monday 4 June
OGAFCA Family Ramble - 4:30 pm. - Thursday 7 June
Police 'have your say' meeting - Fifield Inn - 4 pm. - 14 June
OGAFCA summer newsletter deadline - 25 June
Fifield Fun Day - Saturday 11 August
Holyport Village Show - Saturday 8 September
OGAFCA AGM - Thursday 20 September

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Home Secretary ignored by BT

When Theresa May visited houses in Fifield a householder tackled her on the issue of broadband performance. At the end of October 2011 a confirmation letter was received by the local resident to say that Theresa May had written to the Chief Executive of BT asking to be updated on what steps were being taken to improve the service.

Three months later, when we reported this in the Winter Newsletter, no answer had yet been received from BT. We asked the residents concerned to follow up with Theresa May's office who were surprised to find that they had not received a reply. We were quite surprised too because however large the organisation and however arrogant its management we did not expect them to completely ignore the Home Secretary!

After a second letter a reply was finally received which was duly forwarded to the Fifield resident. We now have a copy of that letter which is from the Director of Public Affairs apologising profusely for not only the delay in responding to the second letter but the lack of any reply to the first letter dated 3 October 2011.

There is no room to print the full content of this letter here but it can be found in *Update Report 08* on the website via the *COMMUNICATIONS* page. In summary the letter trots out all the usual stuff about investing £2.5 billion, the numbers of premises served by the Twyford and Maidenhead exchanges, the upgrade to fibre optic at both exchanges offering up to 40 Mbps rising to 80 Mbps next year, and that orders are being accepted at both exchanges!

The letter concludes ... *"Unfortunately residents in ... Fifield, have lines which are too far from the street cabinet to be able to get the service. This is a challenge in some areas, particularly more rural locations. There are many commercial and technical issues that make the roll-out of broadband to all customers complex and challenging. I'd be happy to meet with you to discuss this in more detail."*

The Director of Public Affairs has completely missed the point that it is not the distance from the cabinet that is at issue here but that the cabinet itself has not been upgraded, and is apparently the only one along the A308 that hasn't. It is this particular state of affairs that we are trying to get answers to. So we will now be replying to the Director of

Public Affairs ourselves to ask for an explanation and to find out if he is as happy to meet with us to discuss this in more detail as he claims he is to meet with the Home Secretary.

As there are more than 100 businesses in our area it is particularly puzzling that BT seem to have judged our area to be commercially unviable. We look forward to the renewed drive to promote the OGAFCA Business Network as we see this route as a very valuable pressure group requiring BT and Openreach to explain themselves.

Rod Lord

Competitions for all ages at the Fifield Fun Day

The Fun Day will take place on Saturday 11 August at last year's venue - Deep Meadows in Fifield.

The Fun Day committee are organising another day of entertainment, whilst raising money for charity. The money raised from this year's Fun Day will be split between the Chiltern and Thames Air Ambulance, Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service and local organisations such as Braywood Cricket Club, The Windsor Horse Rangers and Braywood Memorial Hall.

If you are involved in a local group and need funds, then get in touch, however, if the Fun Day supports your group, you need to support us by running a stall, providing equipment, or entertainment.

This year there will also be competitions for participants of all ages:

- Bake a cake and/or sausage rolls.
 - An art competition and 'make a scarecrow' for children
- Details of rules and how to enter will be available separately.

As usual the Fun Day requires a lot of help, before, during and afterwards, so if you have some time to spare, please volunteer.

For more information or to volunteer please contact me.

Helen Howard
01628 782003
howardhj@btinternet.com



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Fresh ideas needed for children in our community

The Children and Youth Work Group organise, advertise and facilitate activities and events for local children and their families throughout the year. In the past we have organised the Parish Tour activity days, family rambles and a family bingo evening. The work group aims to bring children together, as well as look at what families would like in the local area, both now and in the future.

It is always helpful to have fresh ideas and input especially from people involved with younger children. If you would like to find out more please call me

Alison Brayshaw
07970 020 973

Police 'have your say' meeting to be held in Fifield

Are you aware that the telephone number to contact the police for every non-emergency matter is now 101? It costs 15p per call and you can use it to contact local neighbourhood police, PCSOs etc. The emergency number 999 remains the same.

A reminder about the useful service from Thames Valley Police called the community messaging service, now re-branded as "Thames Valley Alert". You can receive daily emails, texts or telephone calls informing you of crime alerts and witness appeals in our neighbourhood and also exchange information with the police. Complete the online application at www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org to join up – you won't regret it!

This service advised recently of how to keep valuables such as computers, laptops and TVs safer by marking them permanently and visibly by post coding or with a database phone number. Visit www.selectamark.co.uk for further information.

Finally and very importantly, the next "Have Your Say" meeting with the local neighbourhood police is in the Fifield Inn car park on Thursday 14 June from 4 – 5p.m. Please mark this in your diary and go along to speak to PCSO Cosmin Radu about any crime/policing issues you have. These meetings are in danger of being abolished due to lack of interest, so Use it or Lose it!

Keep safe

Paula Grevett

The history of Braywood

The following is the second of four extracts from an article written in 1950 by a member of the Women's Institute. The article will be serialized over four issues of the OGAFCA newsletter. The entire article can be found in the Features section on the OGAFCA website.

There is an interesting legend concerning Hawthorne Hill which lies just on the edge of the Parish. A certain inhabitant of the place, which was supposed to derive its name from the venerable hawthorne tree, had a dream telling him to go to London Bridge, where he would hear something to his advantage. As the dream was repeated three times, he decided to go. On the bridge he met a stranger who told him that he too had had a dream which told him to go to a place called Hawthorne and dig beneath an ancient hawthorne tree, where he would find a pot of gold. The worthy inhabitant returned to his native heath with all speed, dug beneath the hawthorne tree and found the pot of gold. The Latin inscription on the pot read:

Beneath this place where this pot stood,
There is another twice as good.

A second search revealed the other pot and the lucky finder was wealthy beyond all his dreams.

Notable houses in the Parish include Fifield House, Down Place, Oakley Court, New Lodge and Foliejohn Park, of these Fifield House was a Manor Farm thought to have been at one time in possession of the Norres family. William Norres was the keeper of Foly-John Park and his son Sir John Norres was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1601 at Reading. It may have been on this journey that the imperious Queen Elizabeth dined at Foly-John and the church at Bray was fined for lack of loyalty because they did not ring the church bells to mark the occasion.

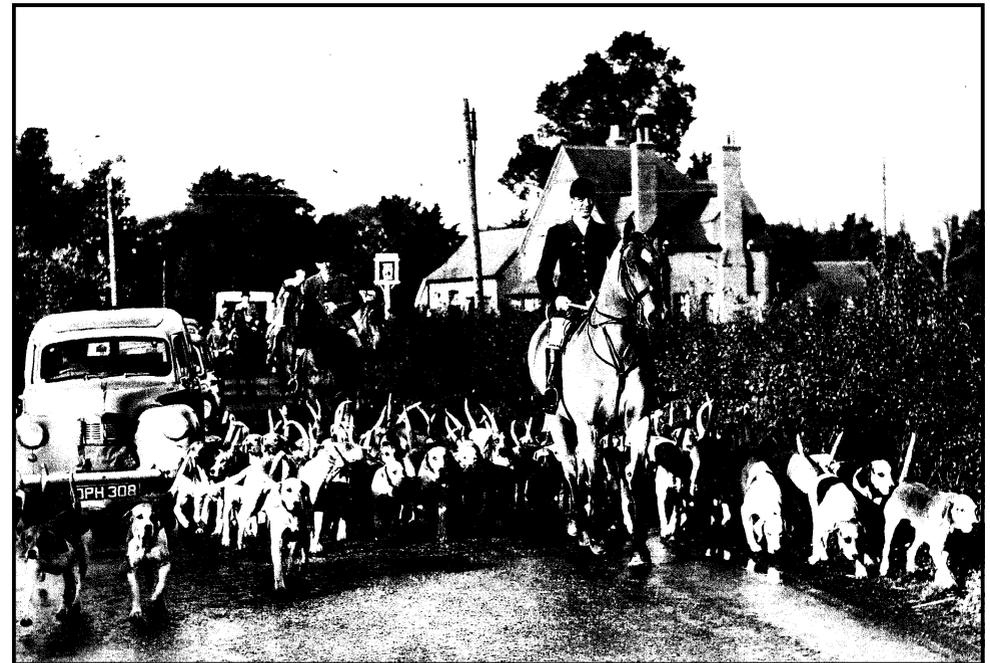
The present Fifield House is not probably built on the site of the original one. Down House is noted for the number of Roman coins which were found in the ground; and has been called Down Place for centuries.

Oakley Court was erected in 1859; the ground was formerly know as Water Oakley Wharf. In the year 1333 Reginald Beler the tithing man of Water Oakley collected eight shillings in boat tolls - 6d each from

each of the sixteen boats which passed up river in the course of the year. The toll was a heavy one for those days when a good pig could be bought for a shilling, but if the present owner of Oakley Court could collect 6d from every boat that passed in a year, he would collect considerably more than eight shillings.

It is worth mentioning that the bridge just beyond Oakley Court, known as Bullock's Hatch Bridge, derives its name from a small estate owned by the Bullock family who lived there as long ago as 1292.

If you know where Bullock's Hatch Bridge was located, have any photographs or more interesting historical facts about our area, please send them in via the internet or by post - the address appears on the inside front cover.



This photograph of a New Year hunt heading out down Forest Green Road passed the Sun and Stars in the 1950's was unearthed by a resident. If you have any interesting historical photographs or newspaper cuttings, do send them to OGAFCA.

Very good news

In the Winter Newsletter I mentioned again that Streetcare were intending to appoint a Flood Risk Engineer. Simon Lavin of Streetcare expected this to be helpful to us in our efforts to address the list of "wet spots" in our area.

I am happy to be able to report that Mr Hanif Baksh has now been appointed to this position. The Environment Work Group is very grateful to Cllr David Coppinger who has been very supportive and as a result a meeting took place in early March. We were able to discuss the full extent of the various situations in our report and do site visits for the two simplest outstanding items - number 2 on the Fifield Road near Longlea Nursing Home and number 4 in Coningsby Lane.

We do of course hope to move on to consider in detail each of the remaining more difficult locations in due course but it would be unrealistic to expect to be able to do all of this at once. Mr Baksh is very co-operative and positive and is in the process of adding our information to the overall plan he is creating. Once he has had a chance to assimilate the complete picture we hope to see some progress soon towards dealing with the simplest of all on our list at the speed bump in Fifield Road.

Moving forward one-by-one on the list as a whole will inevitably be a slow process in these times of austerity when budgets are limited but things certainly feel a bit more hopeful.

Rod Lord

Send your comments on this, or any other issue relating to our community, to us via the OGAFCA website, or by post to the address on the inside front cover.

RBWM Litter picking dates

dates are approximate and for the week beginning

Fifield: 28 May, 9 July, 20 August, 1 October, 12 November
Oakley Green: 14 May, 4 June, 25 June, 16 July, 6 August, 27 August, 17 September, 8 October, 29 October, 19 November

Join an art class

The Oakley Green and Fifield Art Club now holds two art classes in the Braywood Memorial Hall.

On Monday afternoons the advanced class use any medium: oils, watercolour, acrylics and pastels. This term we are turning our attention to the Diamond Jubilee, focusing on painting any picture associated with the Queen. We are hoping to put up a display at the Jubilee celebrations on 4 June.

The other class, held on a Tuesday evening, is a watercolour class for beginners and runs in 10 week sessions. The course is currently into its second period and there are still a couple of places available.

Even if you haven't painted before and don't have any materials or equipment, please let me know as I am sure we can fit you in.

The cost is £5 per class, payable in two instalments for the ten week period.

Bill Collier
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Social events back by popular demand

On Friday 30 March, the Social and Recreational Work Group held our fourth Race Night. For those of you who have never been to such an event, I can tell you they are great fun. You pick a horse at random from a field of eight horses, place a £1 bet on any you fancy and then watch a video to see if it wins. There are usually eight races over the evening and by the end, you may be hoarse from all the cheering! We also organised a pay Bar. Entrance was £7.50, which included a free drink and nibbles - a cheap and very enjoyable night out and if your luck is in, you may even come away with a small profit on the night. See photos on the website and on the inside front cover of this issue.

The next social event will be the Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4 June. It will be along the lines of the Street Party organised for the Royal Wedding Celebrations in April 2011. Last year 250 people came along and the event was a great success. A flier giving more details will come round to everyone nearer the time. But for now, please make a note of the date in your diaries and start praying for fine weather!

Other social events being planned for 2012 are:

Family Rambles – to be organised by Alison Brayshaw - on Thursday 7 June and again in August. These involve a nice gentle stroll through our local countryside, ending up with refreshments at a local Hostelry. Dogs and children especially welcome.

4th Annual Food, Wine and Ales Fair – given the busy summer season – we have moved the date to the middle of September. Planning has started and we are checking out weekend dates with local high quality suppliers of great food, quaffable wines and super beers.

Autumn Family Social Evening – late October. Based on the success of the first one last year, we are planning on having another Bingo night and early supper.

Christmas Fair – again after the success of last year, we are planning to hold another one at the end of November. Bill Collier will again be the point man on this one – so contact him if you want to have a stall.

If you wish to help organise any of these events, please contact us via the website or call Grenville Annetts on 01628 784441

Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor?

Were you aware that Bray Parish Council has responsibility for many aspects of the green and pleasant environment that is the Parish of Bray? We own and manage most of the public open spaces, play areas, bus shelters, allotments and cemeteries, both closed and open, in the Parish.

We are a mandatory Consultee on all Planning Applications in the Parish and we work closely with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead on enforcement issues, speeding, traffic management and many other issues raised by residents. In the future we are looking to take more responsibility through powers devolved to us from RBWM under the Localism Act.

You would be a member of a team of 15 Councillors, taking decisions which affect the lives of all Bray Parish Residents.

We have vacancies now for Councillors in the Wards of Holyport and Dedworth, a small ward centred around the Willows Garden Centre.

If you would like to know more, or talk to me, please call the Clerk, Janice Eden-Bagley on 01628 777997 or email her on clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chris Graham
Chairman
Bray Parish Council

This year the **Holyport Village Show**, a Parish Community Event, takes place on **Saturday 8 September**

Competition classes include, among others, vegetables and fruit, flowers and plants, flower arranging, crafts and photography. There are also classes for children of all ages.

Free Show Schedules will be available from 1 May at the following outlets: Fifield Inn, J & S Rook Butchers, Holyport Post Office, Elizabeth James Hairdressers, St. Michael's Church, Bray Hair Studio and John's Barber Shop.

More information can be found on the OGAFCA website and at www.holyportvillageshow.wordpress.com

Business and Community Partnership meeting

The many advantages of having a positive relationship with the numerous and varied businesses in our area was clearly flagged up by the residents survey carried out in 2008

A first meeting with some of these businesses was very successfully managed by Bill and Paula and now we want to move the project on to the next stage.

We have more than 100 companies of various types and sizes within our boundaries and we share a number of objectives and priorities with them: better roads and transport, IT and broadband improvement, security and media and communications to name just a few.

We believe that we can help our businesses to grow and prosper by acting as a forum for discussion and debate. In return we want them to help us improve the quality of life for our residents in as many ways as possible.

With this in mind, the Business Work Group is holding what we hope will be the first of a number of meetings at the Fifield Inn on Monday 30 April at 7pm. There will be a number of special guests, including James Brayshaw, Sales and Marketing Director of Ordnance Survey who will make a short presentation on how he manages the challenges that face him on a daily basis.

This will be followed by some lively debate and a buffet for just £5 a head, kindly provided by Gary and Helen at the Fifield Inn.

If you're a big or small business please come along.

For further information please call Robin Howard on 01628 773005 or email Robin.Howard@dawsonhoward.com

Charles Wigginton
Paula Grevett
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Petition on speed to be presented to RBWM

I am delighted to report that, having thought we had hit a brick wall regarding our attempts to encourage RBWM to reduce the speed limit on the Forest Green Road, we are now "all systems go" again!

Ward Councillor Davd Coppinger has agreed to present a petition at the next Council meeting (17 April 2012), which means that by the time you read this, we will, hopefully, have obtained hundreds of signatures from concerned residents and the matter has been put on the agenda for the next Cabinet Meeting for consideration.

We needed at least 25 petitioners, with their names, and addresses, before the petition would be considered and at the time of writing we have 50+.

Councillor Coppinger will be given a maximum of two minutes to summarise the contents of the petition and to also indicate how he wishes it to be taken forward – i.e. to Cabinet, or to the Lead Member/ Head of Service.

This is another "watch this space" moment, but we are now feeling a little more confident.

Louise Shenston

Family Ramble

Thursday
7 June

4:30 p.m.

meet outside the Fifield Inn

for more information call
Alison Brayshaw
07970 020 973



Needed!

Newsletter Editor

Do you have time to spare,
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with OGAFCA?

email Trudi Knight
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Update on Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Topic Group Kick-Off on 10 January was very successful and we now have four Topic Groups focusing their attention on Countryside and the Green Belt, Housing and the Built Environment, Transport and Infrastructure and Economy. A Drop-In Day was also held, thanks to support from OGAFCA, in Braywood Memorial Hall.

In the meantime the timescale for completing the Borough's new Local Plan, whose Consultation concluded on 16 March, has been accelerated and BPNP is working very closely with RBWM to ensure that we have the flexibility to create effective policies and plans for Bray Parish in the future. Our own Consultation (by printed Survey Booklet posted through your door and online at www.brayplan.com) has generated a good response and I will report on the outcome in the next newsletter.

You may remember that BPNP made a submission to DCLG on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at the end of last year. Following consultation and many submissions the Government published, on Tuesday 27 March, the final version. Early indications are positive as it gives more protection to the Green Belt and offers "Transitional arrangements" for Local Authorities who do not have an up to date Local Plan, such as RBWM. This should give us some protection whilst the new Local Plan is completed because, as of now, the NPPF is a "material consideration" in any Planning Application decision. See below for a link. The document itself can also be downloaded from our Library at www.brayplan.com.

NPPF: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>

Chris Graham
Steering Group Chairman
Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Braywood War Memorial Hall Committee

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Cricket Club welcomes new members of all ages

Braywood Cricket Club lies at the heart of the OGAFCA area, on the boundary between Fifield and Oakley Green, based at The Turnbull Cricket Ground.

Local residents are very welcome to come to watch Saturday league cricket, Sunday friendlies, midweek Twenty20 and the Juniors teams. There is lots of cricket from the end of April until the end of September.

The club has grown over recent decades, building the pavilion in 1968, relaying the outfield in 1984, constructing practice net facilities in 1993. To cap the club's modern-day progress, 2009 saw the inauguration of Braywood Juniors which many local children have joined.

When cricket was first played on the field in 1920, players were local, getting to matches on foot or bicycle. Social life involved drinking in local pubs including the Prince of Wales, opposite Braywood School where many players had been pupils.

Access to motor transport changed the club in the 1960s. The membership catchment area widened and playing numbers grew. Members raised funds to build the new pavilion. New kitchen facilities cemented the reputation for the best teas in the district. The family-oriented spirit meant greater social activities, including the annual fete run by club members for local people. As membership grew, a 2nd XI started in 1970 and in the early 1980s the pavilion was extended and improved.

Braywood aims to be a friendly and competitive cricket club, welcoming to the people and families of the area. It continues to rely on volunteers to run activities and maintain facilities, so the future depends on members and friends devoting their time and effort to pursuing these objectives.

The club welcomes new members as senior or junior players, umpires, scorers and coaches. Anyone feeling they may be able to help as a volunteer in running the club, or maintaining its facilities would be welcomed.

More information and contact details are on the club's website at www.braywoodcricketclub.co.uk.

Stuart West
Chairman, Braywood CC



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